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Identical letters dated 28 May 2015 from the Permanent Representative of the Syrian Arab Republic to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General and the President of the Security Council

On instructions from my Government, I should like to convey to you the position of the Government of the Syrian Arab Republic regarding the fifteenth report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of Security Council resolutions 2139 (2014), 2165 (2014) and 2191 (2014) (S/2015/368):

The Government of the Syrian Arab Republic reaffirms the detailed positions that it has previously brought to the attention of the Secretary-General and the President of the Security Council in identical letters responding to the reports of the Secretary-General on the implementation of Security Council resolutions 2139 (2014), 2165 (2014) and 2191 (2014). It also wishes to emphasize the following points.

1. It is clear that the bias against the Government of the Syrian Arab Republic and the ongoing efforts to tarnish its image and hold it responsible for everything that is happening in Syria have become a persistent feature of the monthly reports being issued by the Secretariat on the humanitarian situation in Syria. That situation serves the narrow agendas of certain States, whose highest officials, notably in the regimes of Turkey, Saudi Arabia and Qatar, have repeated declared that they are doing everything in their power to harm Syria, undermine its sovereignty and diminish its regional and international role. They have sought to do so by providing direct and open support to such armed terrorist groups as Islamic State in Iraq and the Levant (ISIL), the Nusrah Front, the Army of Conquest (the current guise of the Nusrah Front and terrorist organizations affiliated with Al-Qaida), the Free Army, the Army of Islam, the Islamic Front, the Levant Front and other terrorist organizations associated or affiliated with them. Such reports only serve the interests of the terrorists and the crimes that they are committing across Syria.

2. In that regard, Syria rejects such deliberate distortions of the facts as those contained in paragraphs 4 and 5 of the report, regarding what is really happening in Idlib, Jisr al-Shughur and other cities and regions. The truth, which does not suit certain parties, is that attacks by armed terrorist groups under the leadership of the Nusrah Front against such cities as Idlib, Jisr al-Shughur, Ishtabraq and Kassab have benefited from intensive logistical and fire support from the Turkish Army. The Government of the Syrian Arab Republic has kept the Security Council informed of these crimes through official letters, letters that the author of the report has

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deliberately ignored in order to distort the facts and provide cover for the terrorist crimes that are the root cause of the tragedy taking place in Syria. Not a single one of the reports issued by the United Nations Secretariat has noted that the displacements and sieges are being caused by terrorists supported by Turkey, Qatar and Saudi Arabia, who are attacking and occupying Syrian cities and towns and displacing their populations.

3. Syria finds it deplorable that the facts continue to be falsified in order to mislead international opinion regarding the course of events in Syria. For over a year, the authors of the reports have persisted in basing their reports on information obtained from sources that have been proven by actual events not only to lack credibility, but to have fabricated and altered events to serve their politicized agendas. To mention just one example, the draft report of the Special Representative of the Secretary-General on Children and Armed Conflict that will be discussed in June 2015 states that such armed terrorist groups as the Free Army, ISIL and the Nusrah Front are using children as young as 15 years old to collect information and document incidents in exchange for salaries of $400 per month. Given that children are providing the accounts of the events, and are being motivated to do so by money, we leave it to the reader to imagine how shaky must be the content and veracity of such reports, which do not address those facts.

4. The report's focus on undocumented details and refusal to go into the root causes of the crisis in Syria are designed to divert the gaze of the international community from the true facts about cities such as Tadmur (Palmyra) in Homs governorate; Raqqah, Adra al-'Ummaliyah and the city of Ma'lula in Rif Dimashq governorate; Shaykh Miskin in Dar'a governorate; Kassab in Ladhiqiyah governorate; villages in Hasakah and Raqqah governorates; and other Syrian cities, villages and districts. Those cities had been secure and stable until they began to be attacked by foreign mercenary groups and terrorists of various nationalities under the direction of certain States. The groups have used the most up-to-date deadly weapons to wreak havoc, loot, slaughter, murder, abduct and take captives. These terrorist crimes have brought about the forced mass displacement of thousands of citizens from the areas where the armed terrorist groups are located to safe cities, villages and areas under the protection of the State. As a result, the humanitarian situation in the host communities has worsened, increasing the burden on State institutions and the obligations and burden of United Nations agencies and other international organizations. The States supporting the armed terrorist groups bear responsibility for those additional burdens. All of this raises a question: if the authors of the report, and in particular the United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs, wish to see the truth come out, why do they not talk about Idlib being overrun by the Nusrah Front and other terrorist organizations with logistical and fire support from the Turkish regime in particular, or about the thousands of terrorists of Chechen and Turkmen origin who have been trained, armed and protected by the Turkish regime?

5. The terrorism being brought into Syria would not continue if foreign powers had not embraced the terrorist groups and covered up their war crimes against peaceful Syrians and their property and resources. The annex lists some of the crimes committed by ISIL, the Nusrah Front, the Free Army, the Army of Islam, the Army of Conquest and other armed terrorist groups.

6. From the beginning of the crisis, the armed terrorist groups have systematically targeted our Palestinian refugee brothers in Syria, attacking Palestinian camps in the north and south of the country. Over two years ago, the terrorists overran and occupied Yarmouk camp in Damascus, imposing a siege from within, in the course of which they declared open season on the lives and property of the inhabitants. As a result, 128,000 Palestinian and Syrian civilian inhabitants were displaced, and aid is being prevented from reaching those who stayed behind. In early April, on instructions from certain States, the terrorist Nusrah Front allowed ISIL terrorists to infiltrate the camp, causing humanitarian conditions in the camp to deteriorate further. In cooperation with the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees (UNRWA) and other Palestinian and international organizations, the Syrian Government responded immediately to the crisis by granting free passage to civilians who wished to leave and by providing shelter and humanitarian assistance. To date, 2,550 families have fled the hell unleashed by the gangs in the camp.

7. The Syrian Government therefore reiterates its surprise at the recent outcry regarding events in the camp, in particular from certain States, above all the United States of America, which do not recognize Palestinian rights. Despite the grave nature of the events, the parties within the United Nations and the international community that are now crying over the camp did not react when the terrorist groups attacked the Palestinian camps, which are spread across Syria from the north to the south. The Syrian Government calls on the United Nations and the Security Council swiftly to prevail on Turkey, Saudi Arabia, Qatar, Israel and Jordan to cease funding, sponsoring, supporting and training the terrorist groups, and to press them to withdraw their terrorist allies and terrorist groups from Yarmouk camp in order to safeguard the lives and security of the civilians left in the camp. Those actors should encourage efforts to reach a reconciliation agreement, and should support the work of the Government and of UNRWA — which is responsible for providing assistance to Palestine refugees — so that both can continue their joint endeavour to deliver humanitarian assistance and relief to the camp's inhabitants, instead of muzzling UNRWA when it provides the facts on the positive role being played by the Syrian Government in supporting the Palestinians and ensuring that they receive humanitarian assistance.

8. In the context of its responsibilities as a protecting State, the Government of the Syrian Arab Republic has facilitated the delivery of assistance to all Syrian civilians and those who enjoy the same rights. On 9 April 2015, the Government agreed to most of the requests made by the United Nations and other international organizations to deliver humanitarian assistance to hotspots in Irbin, Zamalka, Babila, Yalda, Bayt Saham and Bludan in Rif Dimashq governorate; Kafr Hamra, Ma'arrat al-Artiq, Urum, Nubul, Zahra', Afrin, Safirah and Aleppo city in Aleppo governorate; Talbisah, Kafr Nan and Dayr Ful in Homs governorate; and Ariha and Jisr al-Shughur in Idlib governorate.

9. Although the Syrian Government gave its approval to the United Nations to dispatch joint humanitarian assistance to hard-to-reach places and hot spots, the United Nations has implemented only 30 per cent of those agreements as of 27 May 2015. The Syrian Government is currently considering requests to organize other new joint convoys, taking into consideration the need to ensure the safety and security of humanitarian workers, the security situation on the ground and the equitable distribution of humanitarian assistance and its successful delivery to

civilians without discrimination or distinction. The Syrian Government is therefore surprised at the double standard of the United Nations which insists on delivering assistance to particular areas that have been classified as dangerous, while at the same time claiming to be unable to deliver aid requested by the Syrian Government to other areas where the security situation is comparable.

10. Despite all this politicization of humanitarian issues, the Syrian Government acknowledges the important work being done by the United Nations and its humanitarian agencies operating in Syria. It wishes to reaffirm the plain fact that such work would not be possible without its efforts, its constructive cooperation and its considerable role in facilitating the process. During the month of April, as a result of its fruitful cooperation with the Government, the World Food Programme was able to deliver assistance inside Syrian territory to approximately 3.6 million beneficiaries. That was despite the challenges facing humanitarian work, above all inadequate funding for the 2015 Strategic Response Plan, which is as of now funded at only 17 per cent, according to the report.

11. In that connection, Syria reiterates yet again that it is the party most committed to the Syrian people and to the Palestine refugees in Syria. Despite the unilateral coercive measures imposed illegally on the Syrian people, and despite the illegal and unethical financial and economic obstacles placed in the path of Syria and its people by certain States, particularly Western and neighbouring States, the Government has continued to provide the greatest share of humanitarian, relief, living and health needs to citizens affected by the crisis across the country, without discrimination. It is deplorable that, in paragraph 41, the authors of the report inflate the numbers of people who have benefited from cross-border assistance.

12. The Government of the Syrian Arab Republic emphasizes that the Turkish Government, which sponsors armed terrorism in Syria, has allowed thousands of trucks to enter Syrian territory illegally through crossings used by United Nations cross-border convoys. Terrorists, weapons and hazardous substances have been transported to armed terrorist groups in Syria by exploiting United Nations cross-border activities. That practice is a serious violation of Security Council resolutions, particularly resolutions 2165 (2014), 2170 (2014), 2178 (2014) and 2199 (2015). In addition, it exposes United Nations convoys to multiple threats.

13. The Syrian Government reiterates that it will continue to cooperate with the United Nations to facilitate the delivery of humanitarian assistance to all of its citizens who have been affected by the crisis, wherever they may be, without discrimination, in accordance with the guiding principles for humanitarian emergency assistance set forth in General Assembly resolution 46/182, particularly respect for Syrian sovereignty and territorial integrity, a principle that was underscored in Security Council resolutions 2139 (2014), 2165 (2014) and 2191 (2014). The annex lists examples of humanitarian assistance that was delivered thanks to the facilitation provided by the Syrian Government in cooperation with the Syrian Arab Red Crescent. It also lists assistance delivered provided by the Syrian Arab Red Crescent.

14. Certain States have persisted in supporting terrorism and concocting misleading terminology that has no precedent in international relations and international law, such as the term "moderate armed opposition" to describe terrorist groups that wreak destruction and death, and the term "non-State armed groups". By blurring such terms, the authors of the report have gone against law, custom and

schools of political thought across the spectrum. Political opposition can only be peaceful. It should comply with laws and regulations. It should struggle by means of ideas and words. It should build the State and its institutions rather than destroy them. Arms should only be borne in accordance with laws and regulations in force. The effort to confuse these terms and concepts is nothing more than an attempt to justify certain States' intervention in Syria's internal affairs, the imposition of their agendas on the Syrian people and their continued sponsorship of terrorism in Syria.

15. Syria also deplores the fact that Secretariat officials have included in the report abhorrent terms that convey discord, division, extremism and blind zealotry, in an effort to distort the true nature of the situation in Syria. Such expressions portray in confessional and sectarian terms what is in fact a war on terrorism and armed terrorist groups. That reading is contrary to both the facts on the ground and values and culture of the Syrian people that are deeply rooted in ages past.

16. The Government is surprised at the claims in paragraph 34 of the report stating that the United Nations continued to face challenges with visas for international staff members. That deliberate exaggeration is intended to cast in a negative light the Government's processing of applications for new visas and visa renewals for United Nations staff members. The figures show that the Syrian Government has approved over 94 per cent of the various types of applications, including visas and residency stamps, as of 30 April 2015.

17. The Syrian Government's ongoing actions have stemmed from its awareness of the constitutional and legal responsibilities incumbent upon it as a State, and are in response to the crimes of armed terrorist groups financed, sponsored and trained abroad. Those actions are intended to protect our peaceful citizens. That is contrary to what has been stated in reports submitted to certain United Nations agencies or in some cases by United Nations officials themselves, and contrary to the claims and accusations levelled by certain parties as part of an effort to effect regime change in Syria by any means possible, including by turning the facts upside down and enlisting terrorism in support of that goal. In its war against terrorism today, the Government of Syria is fighting on behalf of not only the Syrian people, but also the peoples of neighbouring States and of the entire world. It does so in defence of the values of humanity, justice, freedom, dignity and the rule of law, and against the evils of blind terrorism and extremism and a corrosive, obscurantist ideology.

18. As it has done in the past, Syria reaffirms its support for any genuine international effort aimed at countering terrorism in all its forms and manifestations, provided that, in doing so, every effort is made to safeguard civilian lives and respect national sovereignty, Syrian territorial integrity, United Nations resolutions and international instruments. The so-called "war against terrorism" that has been orchestrated by certain States for close to a year now has not achieved any of its purported goals. On the contrary, it has allowed the terrorist organization ISIL and its satellites and allied groups to expand, move around and spread with complete freedom, not only in Syria and Iraq, but in Egypt, Libya, Yemen, and certain African States. Indeed, the threat from these terrorist groups has even extended to the very Saudi regime that has given refuge to extremist terrorist groups and provided support and funding for these criminal gangs. The international community must therefore stand resolutely in the face of the States — above all the regimes of Qatar, Turkey, Saudi Arabia and Jordan — that are supporting and funding terrorism and

armed terrorist groups, whose rage is spreading like wildfire across the region and the world.

19. The Government of the Syrian Arab Republic reaffirms its position that the crisis in Syria requires a political solution based on dialogue among Syrians under Syrian leadership without any outside intervention.

I should be grateful if you would have present letter and its annex circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Bashar **Ja'afari**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

Annex to the identical letters dated 28 May 2015 from the Permanent Representative of the Syrian Arab Republic to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General and the President of the Security Council

Crimes committed by ISIL, the Nusrah Front, the Free Army, the Army of Islam, the Army of Conquest and other armed terrorist groups ignored by the authors of the report

- On 31 March 2015, an armed terrorist group perpetrated a barbarous attack on the village of Mab'ujah in the countryside of Salamiyah in Hama governorate. In the course of this despicable massacre, they shot or cut the throats of more than 60 peaceful civilian villagers, most of them women and children, and seriously injured dozens of civilians. A gang from the terrorist group abducted some of the villagers after violating the sanctity of their homes, which they looted, vandalized and burned.
- On 1 April 2015, hundreds of ISIL terrorists, in coordination with terrorists from the Nusrah Front, entered the Yarmouk Palestinian refugee camp in order to commit more crimes against the people of the camp and induce them to leave, and to undermine the local truce agreement that was supposed to take effect on Friday, 3 April 2015. In so doing, they put the lives of Palestinians and Syrians living in the camp at risk, using them as human shields.
- On 2 April 2015, armed terrorist groups fired shells at the Tadamun neighbourhood in Damascus, injuring three civilians.
- On 4 April 2015, armed terrorist groups shelled the water resources building in Harasta in Rif Dimashq, without injury.
- On 5 April 2015, armed terrorist groups fired four mortar shells at the electric company in the Abbasiyin neighbourhood in Damascus, without injury.
- On 5 April 2015, armed terrorist groups fired mortar shells at the second Ashrafiyah roundabout, Old City, Bab al-Nasr and Jamiliyah neighbourhoods in Aleppo, injuring six civilians.
- On 5 April 2015, armed terrorist groups targeted the electricity station near the village of Musayfirah in the city of Dar'a, cutting off electricity and water from Dar'a governorate.
- On 6 April 2015, armed terrorist groups fired three mortar shells that fell near the French Hospital in Damascus, with no injuries.
- On 6 April 2015, armed terrorist groups fired mortar shells at the Iwa' school in the camp for internally displaced persons in Rif Dimashq, killing a civilian and a child, and injuring five children with shrapnel.
- On 6 April 2015, armed terrorist groups fired a missile at the Jaramana fuel station in the Kashkul neighbourhood in Rif Dimashq, injuring 12 civilians.
- On 6 April 2015, armed terrorist groups fired missiles at the city of Salamiyah in Homs governorate, killing seven civilians and injuring 14 others, including women and children.

- On 6 April 2015, armed terrorist groups directed sniper fire and fired mortar shells and gas canisters at the Jam'iyyat al-Zahra', Old City, Nayrab camp, Furqan, Salah al-Din, Ansari, Hatab Square, and Hamidiyah neighbourhoods in Aleppo, injuring nine civilians.
- On 7 April 2015, armed terrorist groups fired mortar shells at the Fayha' sports complex in Damascus, without injury.
- On 7 April 2015, armed terrorist groups fired mortar shells and gas canisters at the Ramusah, Bab al-Faraj, Hamidiyah, Bab al-Nasr and Mogambo neighbourhoods in Aleppo, killing five civilians and injuring 13 others, including women and children.
- On 8 April 2015, armed terrorist groups in Duma gardens directed sniper fire at civilian vehicles travelling on the Damascus-Homs highway, injuring three civilians.
- On 8 April 2015, a suicide terrorist blew himself up with a car bomb near the village of Barad in Hama governorate, injuring a number of civilians.
- On 8 April 2015, armed terrorist groups fired six mortar shells at an electricity station in Ladhiqiyah, causing material damage only.
- On 8 April 2015, armed terrorist groups directed sniper fire and fired mortar shells and gas canisters at the Bab al-Faraj, Aqabah and Hamidiyah neighbourhoods, killing six civilians and causing material damage.
- On 9 April 2015, a suicide terrorist blew himself up in Abbasiyin in the Adawi neighbourhood in Damascus opposite the Hayat hospital, killing four civilians and causing material damage.
- On 9 April 2015, armed terrorist groups directed sniper fire and fired mortar shells and gas canisters at the Bandarah, Bab al-Faraj, Hamdaniyah, Jamiliyah, Sab' Baharat and Sulaymaniyah neighbourhoods, injuring eight civilians.
- On 10 April 2015, armed terrorist groups detonated a car bomb in the Zahra' neighbourhood in Homs, killing a civilian and injuring 10 others.
- On 10 April 2015, armed terrorist groups fired gas canisters at the Maysalun, Shaykhayn roundabout and Sulaymaniyah neighbourhoods in Aleppo, killing two women, injuring four others, and causing material damage.
- On 10 April 2015, armed terrorist groups fired 25 mortar shells at the city of Sanamayn, injuring three civilians and causing extensive material damage.
- On 11 April 2015, armed terrorist groups fired three mortar shells at an electric company and a textile workshop in Damascus, causing material damage without injury.
- On 11 April 2015, armed terrorist groups detonated an explosive device that was attached to a minibus in Homs, killing one of the civilian passengers and injuring 11 others.
- On 11 April 2015, armed terrorist groups fired mortar shells, gas canisters and locally made missiles at the Kalas Street and Sayyid Ali neighbourhoods, and a youth centre in the Aziziyah neighbourhood in Aleppo, killing 14 civilians and injuring 48 others, including women and children.

- On 11 April 2015, armed terrorist groups fired a gas canister missile at the Zubayr mosque in Aleppo, injuring three civilians.
- On 12 April 2015, armed terrorist groups fired mortar shells and gas canisters at the Aziziyah, Hamdaniyah, Bab al-Faraj, Salah al-Din and Safirah neighbourhoods in Aleppo, injuring 13 civilians.
- On 13 April 2015, armed terrorist groups directed sniper fire and fired mortar shells and gas canisters at the Bustan al-Zahrah, Hamdaniyah, Maysalun, Khalidiyah, Suryan al-Jadidah, Aziziyah and Jam'iyat al-Zahra' neighbourhoods in Aleppo, killing three children and injuring eight others, including women and children.
- On 14 April 2015, armed terrorist groups fired mortar shells at Suq al-Hal in Damascus, killing a civilian and injuring 12 others.
- On 15 April 2015, armed terrorist groups directed sniper fire and fired mortar shells and gas canisters at the Maysalun, Urqub, A'zamiyah and Khalidiyah neighbourhoods in Aleppo, killing two civilians and injuring 23 others, including women and children.
- On 16 April 2015, armed terrorist groups fired mortar shells around the village containing the internally displaced persons camp in Rif Dimashq, injuring nine civilians.
- On 17 April 2015, armed terrorist groups directed sniper fire and fired mortar shells and gas canisters at the Maysalun, Khalidiyah, Bab al-Nasr, Nile Street, Bab al-Faraj and Sayf al-Dawlah neighbourhoods in Aleppo, killing a civilian and injuring nine others, including women and children.
- On 19 April 2015, armed terrorist groups fired mortar shells at the city of Ariha in Idlib governorate, killing two civilians and injuring 38 others.
- On 20 April 2015, armed terrorist groups fired mortar shells at the village of Lubayn in Shahba district, Suwayda' governorate, injuring three civilians.
- On 21 April 2015, armed terrorist groups fired explosive bullets at random at a commercial neighbourhood in Damascus, injuring three civilians and two children.
- On 21 April 2015, armed terrorist groups fired mortar shells at the Biruni hospital in the city of Harasta in Rif Dimashq, injuring a civilian.
- On 21 April 2015, armed terrorist groups fired mortar shells and gas canisters at the cities of Jisr al-Shughur and Ariha, killing seven people and injuring a number of others.
- On 22 April 2015, armed terrorist groups fired mortar shells at the internally displaced persons camp in Rif Dimashq, injuring 11 civilians, including women and children.
- On 22 April 2015, armed terrorist groups directed sniper fire and fired mortar shells and gas canisters at the Salah al-din, Jamiliyah, Ramusah and Sayf al-Dawlah neighbourhoods, killing two civilians and injuring 16 others.

- On 23 April 2015, armed terrorist groups targeted a bus on the Ziyarah-Birkah highway in Hama governorate, killing five civilians and injuring 12 others, including six children.

- On 26 April 2015, armed terrorist groups, including the Nusrah Front, carried out a massacre in the town of Ishtabraq in the Jisr al-Shughur countryside. The terrorists slaughtered approximately 200 civilians, most of them women and children, and left the bodies of the victims strewn across the countryside.

- On 25 April 2015, armed terrorist groups directed sniper fire and fired mortar shells and gas canisters at the Nile Street, Maydan and Azamiyah neighbourhoods in Aleppo, killing three civilians and injuring 15 others, including women and children.

- On 26 April 2015, armed terrorist groups directed sniper fire and fired mortar shells and gas canisters at the Bab al-Faraj, Mashariqah, Sulayman al-Halabi and Suq al-Intaj neighbourhoods in Aleppo, killing three civilians and injuring 41 others, including women and children.

- On 28 April 2015, armed terrorist groups directed sniper fire and fired mortar shells and gas canisters at the Ashrafiyah, Khalidiyah, Janudiyah, Maydan and Hatab Square neighbourhoods in Aleppo, killing three and injuring 16 others, including women and children.

- During the period from 21 March 2015 to 21 April 2015, the total number of civilian victims of terrorist acts, including victims of bombings and shells, in all the governorates other than Raqqah and Idlib, was 199 civilians killed, including 32 children, and 462 injured, including 72 children.

Examples of humanitarian assistance that the United Nations and international organizations, acting in cooperation with the Syrian Arab Red Crescent, were able to deliver thanks to the facilitation of the Syrian Government, and assistance that was provided by the Syrian Arab Red Crescent

- The Syrian Arab Red Crescent delivered humanitarian aid (food and non-food aid and medical assistance), provided from inside Syrian territory by United Nations organizations, to various governorates, including Hasakah, Aleppo, Dar'a, and Hama, but not to Idlib, Raqqah or Dayr al-Zawr governorates. A total of 376,465 food parcels were delivered, including 33,238 parcels to Hama and its countryside, 66,249 parcels to Rif Dimashq, 23,916 parcels to Dar'a and its countryside, 57,756 parcels to Aleppo and its countryside, 16,938 parcels to Hasakah and its countryside, and 25,393 parcels to Qunaytirah and its countryside.

- The Syrian Arab Red Crescent delivered humanitarian aid provided by the International Committee of the Red Cross from inside Syrian territory to most governorates, including Rif Dimashq, Hama and Dar'a. A total of 85,075 food parcels were distributed. A total of 17,716 parcels were distributed to the Rif Dimashq, Damascus, Homs and Aleppo governorates from the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies.

- The Syrian Arab Red Crescent delivered humanitarian aid (food and non-food aid and medical assistance) provided by foreign non-governmental organizations operating in Syria to Aleppo, Rif Dimashq, Dar'a, Damascus, Homs and Suwayda' governorates. A total of 11,627 food parcels were distributed. That number is in addition to the health-care parcels that were distributed in many governorates, including Aleppo, Hama, Damascus, Rif Dimashq, Homs and Suwayda'.

- Some 2,454,415 Syrian beneficiaries (490,883 families) received food parcels provided by the United Nations through the Syrian Arab Red Crescent, a welcome increase in comparison to the month of March. On the other hand, some 1,569,025 Syrian beneficiaries (313,805 families) received food parcels provided by the United Nations through non-governmental organizations. The total number of the beneficiaries of such assistance provided by the United Nations inside Syrian territory thus stands at 3.5 million for the month of April.

- An air bridge has been set up to deliver humanitarian assistance (basic foodstuffs, medical assistance, dialysis equipment and insecticides) provided by the International Committee of the Red Cross to civilians trapped in the city of Dayr al-Zawr, where 400,000 people are under siege.

- In paragraph 41 of the report (S/2015/368), it is noted that 2.4 million persons received food aid. That figure continues to be grossly exaggerated and is meant to cover up the ineffectiveness of the cross-border delivery of assistance. In fact, according to the sparse information provided by the United Nations, some 548,650 persons (approximately 109,730 families), according to the United Nations, received food aid in April. We reiterate that the United Nations cannot verify the delivery of that assistance to the affected civilian

recipients who deserve it. The actual fact, denied by some, is that it falls into the hands of terrorists in the targeted areas.

- Starting from 3 April 2015, the Syrian Arab Red Crescent has responded to emergency needs by delivering and distributing some 9,000 food parcels to Palestinian refugees and the host communities in areas, including Yalda, Babila and Bayt Saham, to which they have been forcibly displaced from Yarmouk camp, which was overrun by armed terrorist groups, mainly the ISIL organization. Those families were given further humanitarian assistance (food and non-food aid and health-care supplies) provided by the United Nations and other international organizations such as UNRWA.

- We again highlight what the Syrian Arab Red Crescent has done to respond to the emergency needs of thousands of families in Ariha and Jisr al-Shughur in the Idlib countryside that had fled Idlib city at the end of March after it had been overrun by the Nusrah Front and its terrorist partners, masquerading under the new alias "Army of Conquest". Those families were given humanitarian assistance (food and non-food aid and health-care supplies) provided by the United Nations and other international organizations.

- During the period from 1 March 2015 to 24 April 2015, the Ministry of Health approved requests from international organizations to transport medicines and medical assistance (medicines, vaccines and medical supplies and equipment), including 33 cross-border missions and 263 missions inside Syria. The missions were organized in cooperation with the World Health Organization, the United Nations Children's Fund, the International Committee of the Red Cross, the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, UNRWA, the United Nations Population Fund, the United Nations Development Programme and the Syrian Arab Red Cross. They extended to most of the Syrian governorates, including areas classified as hard to reach in Rif Dimashq (Duma), the Dar'a countryside, Suwayda', Idlib, Aleppo, Hama, Homs and Hasakah.

- The World Health Organization was able to deliver medical assistance and provide medical treatment to 3.3 million beneficiaries, including in hot spots. The Government also approved a request from the World Health Organization to deliver dialysis kits to the Duma region in Rif Dimashq on 5 May 2015 (dialysis machines with all their accessories and 250 filters, in addition to medical supplies consisting of children's vaccines, insulin for those suffering from juvenile diabetes, psychiatric support materials and baby milk).

- The Syrian Government renewed its approval for the World Food Programme to bring humanitarian assistance through the Nusaybin crossing on the Syrian-Turkish border, in order to allow 46,000 food parcels to be brought into Hasakah governorate, and to bring in 105 metric tons of date biscuits to be distributed to schoolchildren during April 2015.